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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 7, 2009. Claims 1-36 and 38 were pending, with claim 37 having previously been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. By this Amendment, claims 5, 16, 26 and 32 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, independent claims 1, 12, 23 and 29 have been amended to include the features formerly recited in now-canceled claims 5, 16, 26 and 32, respectively, independent claim 35 has been amended to include the features formerly recited in now-canceled claim 26, independent claim 36 has been amended to include the features formerly recited in now-canceled claim 32, claims 6, 17, 27 and 33 have been amended by rewriting them in independent form, and claims 7 and 18 have been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter. Applicant submits that no new matter and no new issues have been introduced by the amendment. Entry of the amendment is requested. Claims 1-4, 6-15, 17-25, 27-31, 33-36 and 38 would remain pending upon entry of this amendment, with claims 1, 6, 12, 17, 23, 27, 29, 33, 35 and 36 being in independent form.

The Office Action indicates that claims 5-8, 16-19, 26-28 and 32-34 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features formerly recited in now-canceled claim 5, claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form, independent claim 12 has been amended to include the features formerly recited in claim 16, claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form, independent claim 23 has been amended to include the features formerly recited in claim 26, claim 27 has been rewritten in independent form, independent claim 29 has been amended to include the features formerly recited in claim

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32, claim 33 has been rewritten in independent form, independent claim 35 has been amended to include the features formerly recited in claim 26 and independent claim 36 has been amended to include the features formerly recited in claim 32.


Thus, applicant submits that each of independent claims 1, 6, 12, 17, 23, 27, 29, 33, 35 and 36 is now allowable.

In view of the remarks hereinabove, applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any required fees in connection with this amendment, and to credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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